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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Inter-sessional Working Group
10-14 January 1994
Agenda item 4

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP

Draft report

Rapporteur: Lyudmila BOZHKOVA (Bulgaria)

Chapter ____

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

The session was opened by the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women. In her introductory statement, she recalled that the Commission on the Status of Women had recommended that an inter-sessional working group should be convened in early January 1994 in order to have more time to further develop the Platform for Action that was expected to be the major outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. She introduced an informal conference room paper on the Platform for Action. That paper took into consideration the structure and main features proposed by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session. She stated that the Platform should contain a limited number of priority areas of concern and action for which Governments and civil society should be accountable, as well as a time-frame for its implementation to the year 2000, in keeping with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. The paper also took into account the fact that the Platform should address the need to achieve more balance in the roles and relationships of men and women rather than focusing on women as a separate group. She then referred to the individual sections of the conference room paper and concluded by stating that the Platform for Action should emerge as a commitment on the part of the women and men of the world to work together in unity to change the status quo in which women experienced inequality because of their gender.

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